

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 NEA-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-07 AID-05

CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 FPC-01 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04

USIA-15 OES-06 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-10

/124 W

-----010408Z 000724 /63

P R 310854Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3397

INFO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

UNCLAS DACCA 0511

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS : ENRG, BG

SUBJECT : NATURAL GAS FOUND IN BAY OF BENGAL

1. AIR VICE MARSHAL MAHMOOD, IN CHARGE OF PETROLEUM MINISTRY, HELD PRESS CONFERENCE JANUARY 31 TO ANNOUNCE DISCOVERY BY UNION OIL COMPANY OF NATURAL GAS IN THE BAY OF BENGAL. UNION OIL COMPANY IS MAKING SIMULTANEOUS ANNOUNCEMENT IN US AS FOLLOWS: BEGIN TEXT. UNION OIL COMPANY OF CALIFORNIA ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT AN EXPLORATORY WELL DRILLED IN THE BAY OF BENGAL, 50 MILES OFFSHORE BANGLADESH, HAS TESTED NATURAL GAS.

THE WELL, KUTUBDIA NO. 1, TESTED GAS AT A RATE OF 17.9 MILLION CUBIC FEET PER DAY THROUGH A THREE-QUARTER INCH CHOKE FROM PERFORATIONS BETWEEN 8,730 AND 8,760 FEET. OTHER POTENTIAL GAS SANDS IN THE WELL WERE NOT TESTED.

DRILLED IN WATER 27 FEET DEEP, THE WELL IS APPROXIMATELY 60 MILES SOUTHWEST OF THE CITY OF CHITTA-
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GONG.

THE WELL WAS DRILLED BY UNION'S WHOLLY OWNED SUBSIDIARY, UNION OIL COMPANY OF BANGLADESH, UNDER A PRODUCTION SHARING CONTRACT WITH THE BANGLADESH OIL AND GAS CORPORATION, THE STATE-OWNED OIL COMPANY, UNION OIL COMPANY OF BANGLADESH HAS A 75 PERCENT INTEREST IN THE

CONTRACT AND UNION OIL COMPANY OF CANADA LIMITED HAS
25 PERCENT.

RESULTS OF THE WELL WILL BE STUDIED BEFORE ANY
DECISIONS ARE MADE ON FUTURE ACTIVITY. END TEXT.

2. COMMENT, UNION OIL COMPANY OFFICIALS HERE TELL US
THAT THE GAS WAS TESTED AND THAT NO CONDENSATES WERE
PRESENT. END COMMENT.

3. THE YUGOSLAV OFF-SHORE OIL EXPLORATION FIRM OF
INA-NAFTAPLIN, IN A PRODUCTION SHARING PARTNERSHIP WITH
THE US FIRM, TEXAS-PACIFIC (TP) (20 PERCENT), IS DRILLING THE
ONLY OTHER WELL IN BANGLADESH WATERS THIS SEASON.
THAT WELL, BEGUN ON DECEMBER 25, HAS NOW REACHED THE
14,000 FOOT LEVEL. LAST YEAR EXTREME PRESSURE AT ABOUT
THE SAME DEPTH FORCED INA TO ABANDON ITS FIRST OFFSHORE
WELL, AFTER FINDING GAS. IF A REPETITION OF THIS PRESSURE
PROBLEM IS AVOIDED, THE INA/TP TEAM HOPES TO DRILL DOWN
ANOTHER 2,500 FEET. THIS DRILLING OPERATION TO THE SAME
FORMATION DRILLED LAST YEAR, IS EXPECTED TO BE
COMPLETED BY LATE FEBRUARY.
MASTERS

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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